

## **Easter message 2026 from Archbishop Patick O'Regan, Archdiocese of Adelaide**

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ.

On this most holy and joyful day, I greet each of you. Wherever you are gathering to celebrate, whether in the Cathedral, in your Parish church, in a hospital or aged care home, or simply at home with those you love. I greet each of you with the ancient and irrepressible greeting of Easter.

At the heart of our faith is not simply a teaching, nor a programme, nor even a community, as much as we cherish those things. At the heart of our faith is an event. Something happened. The tomb was found empty. The Lord was encountered: by Mary Magdalene in the garden, by the disciples on the road to Emmaus, by the apostles in the upper room, behind locked doors. Something happened that shattered the finality of death and opened history to a horizon that had not been seen before.

Saint Paul understood exactly what was at stake. Writing to the Corinthians, he put it without equivocation: *“if Christ has not been raised, our faith is in vain, and we are of all people most to be pitied. But Christ has been raised.”* And so everything, everything, is changed.

This Easter, I find myself drawn to the figure of Mary Magdalene in the garden on that first morning. She came in grief. She came expecting only to tend to the dead. She stood weeping outside the empty tomb, and even when she finally encountered the Risen Lord, she did not recognise him — until he spoke her name. “Mary.” In that single word, her whole world turned on its axis.

The Risen Christ continues to call us by name. Not as a crowd, not as a statistic, not as a problem to be managed — but as persons known and loved. Whatever this Easter finds you carrying: illness or loss; uncertainty or exhaustion; gratitude or joy or something you cannot yet name, the Lord comes to you in it. He calls your name.

This year, as our Archdiocese prepares for our Synod, I am especially conscious that we are being invited to a deeper quality of listening, to God, and to one another. Easter is itself the foundation of that calling. When we truly listen to each other with care and reverence, we are practising a resurrection faith, a faith that believes life, meaning, and the Holy Spirit can be found even in the most unexpected places and the most unexpected people.

To those who were received into full communion with the Church at the Easter Vigil, and to those who have recently celebrated the Sacraments of Initiation, I say welcome. You have come home.

To everyone across our Archdiocese: thank you for your faithfulness, your generosity, and your love for the Church and for one another. I am deeply grateful for you.

May this Easter fill your homes and your hearts with the peace that the world cannot give — and with a joy that endures. And may you know that God is Good, Good indeed.